

A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory – Home of Science and Engineering Solutions. Work at the lab supports the Department's business lines of environmental quality, energy resources, national security and science.

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## ■ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – INEEL Deployments Bring Home the Gold

The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management recently conferred 2 platinum certificates, 4 golds, 29 silvers and 11 bronze certificates on the INEEL in recognition of federal project managers in Idaho who've been instrumental in the deployment of innovative environmental technologies. Additionally, the Idaho Operations Office received an award for having the greatest percentage of projects with new deployments. Across the entire DOE complex, 210 innovative technology deployments were cited as part of the certificate program. The awards are designed to encourage project managers to use new technologies in solving existing problems and encourage sites to talk among themselves and share their innovative technology ideas.

## ■ SCIENCE – Eighth University Joins Research Alliance

The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), the nation's northernmost land-, sea- and space-grant university and international research center, has become the newest member of the Inland Northwest Research Alliance (INRA). "The University of Alaska Fairbanks adds a new dimension to INRA's research capabilities," according to University of Idaho President Bob Hoover, who helped establish INRA and serves as president of the eight-university research alliance. "Their expertise in water resources, environmental engineering, atmospheric science, global climate change, geophysics and supercomputing make them a natural partner for the work of INRA and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. We have enriched the alliance with their membership." The other member universities of INRA are Utah State, Montana State, University of Montana, Washington State, Boise State, Idaho State and the University of Idaho.

## ■ ENERGY RESOURCES – INEEL Cited as a "Champion"

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory was recognized this month as an Energy Project Champion through the Federal Energy Management Program's "You Have the Power" campaign. The campaign is part of DOE's energy efficiency recognition program. The citation acknowledged the INEEL's teaming with local industry and government to install a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station in Idaho Falls. The station was opened last winter and provides clean fuel to the eastern Idaho area.

## ■ NATIONAL SECURITY – Another Lab Technology Licensed to an Idaho Firm

The INEEL this month announced the licensing of a technology that can quickly and efficiently detect material fatigue in such critical components as airplanes and bridges. Positron annihilation is a breakthrough from current methods of using X-rays to detect cracks in materials, as it provides a method for determining fatigue long before a crack ever appears. Not only can this process predict failure in everything from huge and costly superstructures like bridges and every day items like microchips and human implants, say researchers, positron annihilation can also help create new, stronger materials. Positron Systems, Inc., of Boise is the licensee.

Editor's Note: *Intelligence* is part of a new family of publications from the INEEL, and replaces the former *Today and Tomorrow* news brief.

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